GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3664
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
WORKING CONDITIONS IN ABESTOS FACTORIES
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has conducted a study through the Institute of Occupational Health on the betterment of working conditions in asbestos factories in India.

(b) If so, whether it is proper on enlist the support of the asbestos industry against whom UN has imposed sanctions world wide;

(c) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) Whether the study report is likely to be presented at the forthcoming Rotterdam Convention of the UN Chemical Review Committee; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K.HANDIQUE)

(a) to (e): Yes sir.The National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad has been entrusted with a study on environmental and health impacts of the usages of Chrysotile Asbestos with an objective to find out the concentration of asbestos fibres in the work zone and to assess the health status of the workers and the residents in the vicinity of the industry.

Out of a total of Rs. 59.66 iacs allocated for the study by Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals, the Asbestos Cement Products Manufactures Association has contributed Rs. 16 lacs to ensure their co-operation and access to the factories. NIOH is a body under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Since the NIOH study is still under progress, no report was presented before the Chemical Review Committee of Rotterdam Convention held at Geneva during March,10.13.2008.